

**Meridian Economic Development Corporation
Michigan Main Street Fairness Act Resolution**

RESOLUTION

At a regular meeting of the Meridian Economic Development Corporation, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Meridian Municipal Building, in said Township on the 12th of January, 2012 at 7:30 a.m., Local Time.

PRESENT: Chair Madle, Trustee Ochberg, Township Manager Richards, William White, Gilbert White, Malinda Barr, Craig Allen, Stewart Morrison, and Lyn Rowlee,

ABSENT: David Yuan and Christine Tenaglia

WHEREAS, the retail sector is a significant provider of employment in Meridian Township and statewide, accounting for nearly 740,000 jobs in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the Meridian Township Economic Development Corporation supports enhancing and maintaining the viability of the Township business community, including its retail sector; and

WHEREAS, Meridian Township retailers are an important contributor to the local and regional economy in terms of jobs, taxes, and charitable giving; and

WHEREAS, the viability of Meridian Township's retail-sector employers and consequently their employees, is threatened by this inequitable price advantage; and

~~**WHEREAS**, Michigan based retailers are put at an automatic six percent price disadvantage by a tax loophole which allows online and out-of-state merchants to avoid collecting the sales and/or use tax owed; and~~

WHEREAS, Meridian Township retailers donate to civic events and philanthropic causes such as the Fourth of July Fireworks, United Way, the Downtown Okemos Art Walk/Celebration, and to local food banks; and

WHEREAS, a report by Lansing-based Public Sector Consultants identified increased potential job creation, brick and mortar investment, and sales tax revenues if the tax loophole were closed; and

WHEREAS, bipartisan legislation under H.B. 5004 and H.B.5005, entitled the Michigan Main Street Fairness Act, have been introduced in the legislature.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Meridian Township Economic Development Corporation hereby urges the Michigan Legislature to vote in favor of removing this onerous and unfair tax loophole; and

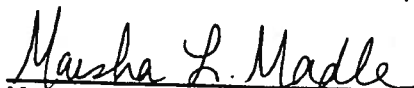
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Meridian Township Economic Development Corporation hereby requests the State of Michigan to urge Congress to restore fairness to the retail sector by creating a level playing field for both local and internet retailers.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)

) ss

COUNTY OF INGHAM)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified Chairperson of the Meridian Economic Development Corporation, Ingham County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Meridian Economic Development Corporation held on the 12th of January, 2012.



Marsha Madle, Chair
Meridian Economic Development Corporation